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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1896.

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THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. GOULD.

SOMEWHAT more than a week has passed since the sods were placed over the honored grave of Dr. Gould, yet even in the busy haste of our American life there are many who will welcome an appreciative account of the life and achievements of this eminent astronomer. So many notices of him were printed in the daily journals, immediately after the community was apprized of its sad loss, that it is unnecessary here to recount the details of his work. But it may be of service to give, in right perspective, a just idea of the magnitude and character of his contributions to astronomy, to speak of the purpose and importance of what he accomplished for science, and of the nature of his strong personal influence in its advancement.

Considered apart from the great things he accomplished, the first thing that strikes us about his career is the intimate way in which it is bound up with the history of his beloved science on both sides of the Atlantic, and the unique position he held, as illustrated by the number and extent of his personal alliances. It is scarcely possible to realize that he was the friend of von Humboldt, then in his 77th year; that it was due to the friendly interest of this great man, indeed, that he became the pupil, friend and intimate in the household of the great master of modern astronomy, Gauss, then in his 70th year; that he was the

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